

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 05446 141800Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /079 W

-----025960 141803Z /64

O P 141736Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2542

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 5446

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: PRETORIA FIVE MEETING OF SEPT 14

(U.S. VIEWS)

REF: (A) STATE 232033, (B) PRETORIA 5442, (C) PRETORIA 5441

1. REF (B) IS PRETORIA FIVE'S JOINT ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT SITUATION, BASED IN PART UPON AMBASSADOR SCOTT'S TALK WITH FOURIE THIS MORNING (REF C) AND OUR PRIOR FEELING THAT THE BIGGEST STICKING POINT FOR THE SAG IS THE SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF THE UN FORCE (PARA 5 OF PRETORIA 5415). SCOTT NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH SAG'S LATEST MESSAGE DID NOT MENTION TROOP COMPOSITION, FOURIE TOLD HIM THAT THE CABINET LACKED CONFIDENCE THAT THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S
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PROMISE TO CONSULT ON COMPOSITION WOULD BE "EFFECTIVE" SINCE HAD HAD NOT CONSULTED ON SIZE. SCOTT WAS INCLINED TO INTERPRET FOURIE'S POINT AS MEANING THAT ONLY SOME KIND OF CONCESSION ON SIZE WOULD ASSUAGE CABINET FEELINGS THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL SEEMS INCLINED TO GO AHEAD AS HE PLEASURES ON THIS ISSUE REGARDLESS OF SAG VIEWS.

2. SCOTT SAID FOURIE DID NOT HIMSELF SEEM TO BE SURE WHICH WAY THE CABINET WAS LIKELY TO GO, NOR WHETHER IT WOULD BE BEST TO PRESENT THE CABINET WITH A NEED TO MAKE A DEFINITE DECISION AT THEIR NEXT MEETING BY GOING AHEAD WITH SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION NOW OR TO DEALY THE PROCESS IN THE HOPE OF CREATING A BETTER CLIMATE. (COMMENT: ONE WOULD THINK FOURIE WOULD HAVE ARGUED STRONGLY AGAINST GOING TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL NOW IF HE WERE REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE LIKELIHOOD OF A CABINET REJECTION.)

3. THE PURPORT OF OUR JOINT REPORT IS THAT WE DO NOT FEEL THE CABINET HAS MADE UP ITS MIND AND THAT WE DO NOT KNOW WHICH WAY IT IS LEANING. WE BELIEVE THAT THE MORE THE FIVE CAN GET THE SYG AND OTHERS TO MOVE TOWARD A FORMULATION THAT SAYS OR IMPLIES THAT THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF FORCES WILL CLEARLY BE LESS THAN THE SUGGESTED TOTAL AND THAT THERE WILL BE CONSULTATION ON THE NUMBER, THE GREATER IS THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE SAG WILL ACCEPT (OR NOT REJECT) THE UNSC DICISION.

4. THE PRETORIA FIVE WERE AGREED THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF UNSC ACTION, THE RESULTS OF THE NEXT CABINET MEETING ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE CONCLUSIVE. AT THE SAME TIME, WE FELT THAT IT WOULD BE RISKY TO GO AHEAD WITH UNSC ACTION BEFORE THE NEXT CABINET MEETING IN THE ABSENCE
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OF SOME BETTER INDICATION OF THE CABINET'S VIEWS, SINCE THIS MIGHT PRECIPITATE A NEGATIVE REACTION. FOR THIS REASON, WE CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO GO AHEAD WITH THE MESSAGE AND AIDE MEMOIRE FROM THE FIVE (ASSUMING THIS IS THE MOST FORTHCOMING POSITION WE CAN TAKE WITHOUT LOSING UN OR AFRICAN SUPPORT) AND THEN ASK FOURIE QUITE CANDIDLY WHETHER HE AND BOTHA THINK WE SHOULD PROCEED WITH A UNSC MEETING RIGHT AWAY OR WAIT UNTIL AFTER TUESDAY'S CABINET MEETING. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD TELL FOURIE THAT WE COULD NOT WAIT BEYOND THAT TIME.

5. IN SUPPORTING THIS POSITION, I AM INFLUENCED BY THE BELIEF THAT OUR MESSAGE AND AIDE MEMOIRE DO NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF THE SAG WERE TO COME UP WITH POINTS WE COULD GENUINELY ACCOMMODATE EVEN AT THE LAST MINUTE. IN ANY EVENT, THE SAG IS UNLIKELY TO TAKE ANY ACTION AMOUNTING TO REJECTION BEFORE THE SECURITY COUNCIL ACTS. I AM HOPEFUL BUT SOMEWHAT LESS CONFIDENT THAN SOME OF THE MISSION OFFICERS IN BELIEVING THAT WHEN FORCED TO MAKE A FINAL DECISION, THE SAG WILL SEE THAT IT CANNOT AFFORD TO RISK THE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OF REJECTING OUR PROPOSAL, WHICH CONTINUES TO OFFER THEM THE

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